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IVLP Participant Promotes U.S. Wood Building Concept

Report Categories:

Wood Products

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Report Highlights:

Dr. Chen Chi-Ren, 2011 International Visitor Leadership Program Scholar (IVLP), who was nominated by the Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) Taipei, recently completed construction on a green concept demo house using U.S. Douglas Fir glulam at the National University of Kaohsiung. During the inauguration, Dr. Chen pointed out that as a result of using U.S. wood instead of concrete or steel, they were able to significantly decrease their carbon footprint. The building, which was designed by Dr. Chen and architectural majors at the university, was funded by Taiwan's Ministry of Education. U.S. Douglas Fir glulam was selected for the project based on its high structural performance and availability. In 2014, Taiwan imported \$55.7 million of U.S. softwood and treated lumber products from the United States, a 46% increase since 2012.

General Information:

Dr. Chen Chi-Ren, Associate Professor of the Department of Creative Design and Architecture at the National University of Kaohsiung, was one of only a few Taiwan professionals selected to participate in the [State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program \(IVLP\)](#) in 2011. During his program, Dr. Chen learned firsthand from U.S. wood construction industry experts and policymakers about the latest trends in sustainable building techniques (green building systems) and sustainable forestry product certification systems. Dr. Chen is currently on several public and private committees dealing with local building codes and building material standards.

Recently, the National University of Kaohsiung President Jow-Lay Huang, ATO Taipei staff, and several important guests and sponsors, inaugurated the 450 square-meter demo house, which immediately became the new landmark of the campus. The structure, which was built with U.S. Douglas Fir glulam, has a V-shaped roof that will also include solar panels. Once the demo house was designed, construction took less than a month to finish, which is a favorite feature of the construction industry in Taiwan since it cuts down labor costs. As a result of the success of this demo building, the National University of Kaohsiung is already planning larger wood frame structures on campus with the hope of becoming the “Greenest University in Taiwan.” A video, which was recorded by the university during the construction phase, is available at: <http://youtu.be/3nG3uWzRxb0>. Since 2010, ATO Taipei has assisted several U.S. companies and Taiwan buyers, including the National University of Kaohsiung demo house project, with the promotion and exportation of U.S. wood products.



ATO Taipei Director (in the middle) opened the demo house with other VIPs.



A glance of the demo house that used U.S. Douglas Fir glulam.

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